

# THE CITY OF YPSILANTI NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2023

## FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER

Greetings from the City Manager's Office! I hope everyone is having a splendid New Year and is keeping up with their resolutions. City Council is also working on our goals and began the process this month at our first meeting of 2023. The council agenda and meeting information can be found on the cities [webpage here](#). City Council and staff has presented thoughtful goals, and we look forward to finalizing these to prepare the FY 2023/24 budget.

February is Black History Month. Let's resolve to recognize the accomplishments and foundation built in our community since its inception, not just in February but throughout the year. Join us as we earnestly look for solutions to bring justice and equity as we continue this vital work together. Many events are

happening within our community; please refer to our city calendar for updates on getting involved.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, the United Way of Washtenaw County is an incredible resource. This year, **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** is for those who make under \$60,000 annually. Registration begins February 1st. They can help in times of crisis by get-help 211, and please refer to their website [Get Help: 2-1-1 | United Way of Washtenaw County](#). Please continue reading the Around-Town portion of this month's newsletter for more information.

Please remember that [Washtenaw County is still at risk of contracting COVID-19](#). We can support one another by getting vaccinated and



boosted. Continue to follow state and county guidelines to reduce the spread of the virus. For more information on COVID and flu vaccination and testing opportunities, contact the Washtenaw County Health Department at (734) 544-6700. Remember, if you're not feeling well, wear a mask and stay home.

Staying Connected,  
Frances McMullan

## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR NICOLE BROWN



Greetings Everyone! Happy February! Can you imagine that the first month of the year has already come and gone? Time flies and I hope that January treated you well.

Every February, we celebrate Black History Month, a month marked to honor and rejoice in the contributions of African Americans to this country, as well as reflect on the hardships and continued struggle for racial justice. Black History is American History, Black Culture is American Culture, and Black stories and experiences are essential to the ongoing story of America. There will be many events and programs happening

throughout the City; I hope that you will consider participating and contributing to these necessary conversations.

City Council has just completed our goal setting for the year and I'm pleased to report that the body is very much aligned on our priorities. Next, we will move on to the budget process in the coming months where we will solidify our course of action.

It's been so exciting bumping into folks in the community and having dialogue about our beloved Ypsi. I'll be seeing you around!

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In partnership, Nicole Brown, Mayor

# CITY UPDATES

## YPSILANTI FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



*Swear in ceremony for Captain Wurmlinger by City Clerk Andrew Hellenga*

On January 28th, the Ypsilanti Fire Department hosted an event called "Aggressive Command Supports Aggressive Firefighting," presented by Nicholas Martin.

Nicholas Martin began his career in 1994 and is presently a battalion chief in Salisbury (NC), previously serving as the Chief of Training for the Columbia (SC) FD and as a lieutenant in the District of Columbia FD.

The 16-hour hybrid online/in-person incident command consisted of 8 hours of online training and 8 hours



of hands-on incident command simulations. The computer-based simulations will allow incident commanders opportunities to try



*Captain Wurmlinger with Chief Hobbs.*

On Monday, January 23rd, at 1:30 PM. Deric Wurmlinger achieved the rank of Captain after eight years of serving within the City of Ypsilanti Fire Department. Congratulations, and thank you for your many years of service.

and assess new vs. current command operations while interacting with different companies assigned to the digital fireground.



# MICHIGAN FATAL FIRE STATISTICS

2022

**132** PEOPLE died in **113** FIRES

**↑ 23%**  
INCREASE

in **deaths** compared to 2017-2021 average

**↑ 20%**  
INCREASE

in **fires** compared to 2017-2021 average



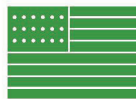
**16** MULTI-FATAL FIRES  
resulting in **35** deaths



**ONLY 33%** of homes were reported as having **working smoke alarms**



**27%** of victims were reported as disabled



**5%** of victims were reported to be veterans

## REPORTED HOME VALUES

as compared to Michigan's \$150,000 median value



**47%** OF HOMES with fatal fires valued **below**

**16%** OF HOMES with fatal fires valued **above**

**14%** APARTMENTS/COMMERCIAL



GENDER



**62%**  
MALE



**37%**  
FEMALE

1% not reported

AGE



4% not reported



24% 0-39 years old



41% 40-69 years old



31% 70+ years old

TIME



6pm - 6am

**61%**



6am - 6pm

**39%**

DAYS

Most fatal fires occurred on **Monday & Tuesday**

## TOP 3 FATAL FIRE CAUSES



SMOKING



ELECTRICAL



HEATING

## TOP 3 AREAS OF ORIGIN



LIVING ROOM



BEDROOM



KITCHEN

(These numbers reflect only the reported fires.)

## MI PREVENTION HOME SAFETY VISITS

Visited

**3040** HOMES

**41%** OF HOMES

had NO working smoke alarms

Installed

**8897**  
SMOKE ALARMS

& **2337**  
CO ALARMS

Visited with

**6510**

COMMUNITY MEMBERS



## SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

Put one on **EVERY LEVEL** in **EVERY BEDROOM**



Change batteries **EVERY YEAR OR WHEN IT CHIRPS** and replace every **TEN YEARS**

**TEST** smoke alarms every month

MFISfoundation.org

## UMS AT THE FREIGHTHOUSE

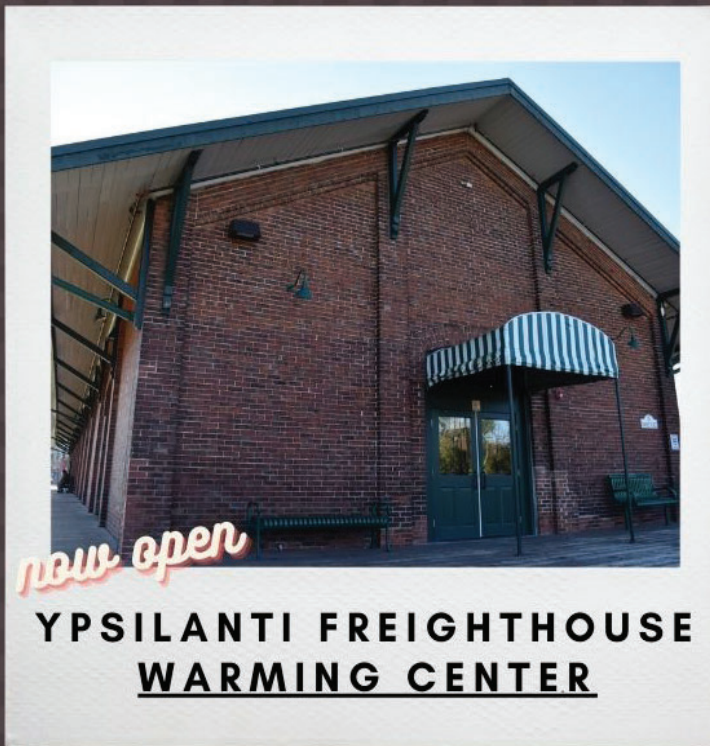
On January 20th, the University of Michigan Musical Society had a community arts forum in Depot Town. They discussed their future programming ideas at the historical Ypsilanti Freighthouse, allowing participants to list suggestions and ideas. The opening residencies begin on April 21st- April 30th, bringing in artists over a span of ten days to Ypsilanti but didn't mention who would be involved in this period.

Three other programming dates span over four weeks in the fall of

this year, starting September 10th to October 8th. Then in 2024, the entire month of April and September. Many residents at the art forum shared their comments and concerns about the upcoming program. UMS staff reassured those skeptical that plans are to embrace the current art scene within the community while including other programs that are not currently available.



## DAYTIME WARMING CENTER



The Daytime Warming Center is at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse (100 Market Pl.) Their active hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 AM- 5 PM through March 31st.

Looking for donations of:

- **Food & Coffee**
- **Gloves, Hats & Mittens**
- **Indoor safe propane heaters (Little Buddy brand preferred if possible)**
- **Propane canisters**
- **Hot Hands (small hand size preferred)**
- **Mylar emergency blankets**
- **Fire starters**
- **Art Supplies**

Donations can be brought onsite during hours of operation or for more information, you can contact [shelterassociation@washtenaw.org](mailto:shelterassociation@washtenaw.org)

## SNOW ORDINANCE AND ABATEMENT PROCEDURES

TO ALL CITY OF YPSILANTI PROPERTY OWNERS

The city's snow ordinance and abatement procedures are now in effect. Please be advised of the following:

1. Snow must be removed from sidewalks and parking lots within 24 hours of first accumulation of one inch (1") or more.

2. Ice must, if practicable, immediately be removed from sidewalks and parking lots. When immediate removal is impracticable,

## CONT. SNOW ABATEMENT

sand, salt or other chemical or materials must immediately be used and then ice must be removed as soon as practicable.

3. Only one (1) warning for abatement will be left at any parcel per snow season. Further violations will result in abatement without additional notices left at the property. The property owner/agent is responsible for abatement costs.

4. A citation will be issued for every violation, even the first. Fines increase each offense.

5. A five-foot (5') path must be maintained on sidewalks at all times to be in compliance. (Properties with public sidewalks less than 5' in width must be cleared to the edges of the paved areas). Ypsilanti City Code Chapter 94, Section 94-135(a) defines the "snow season" as October 1st

through May 31st. Failure to comply with the abatement notice will result in the city's contractor being hired to correct the violation, with all costs for services invoiced to the property owner/ agent.

Further information may be obtained through the Code Enforcement Division at (734) 482-9626, or at [cityofypsilanti.com/codeenforcement](http://cityofypsilanti.com/codeenforcement).

## 2023 YPSILANTI BICENTENNIAL WALKING EVENTS

The following tours will be led by a Ypsilanti native and resident of one of Ypsi's oldest houses, Stefan Szumko, also known as SlugWhisperer.

All walking tours will happen rain or shine (unless SlugWhisperer's basement floods or there is a significant chance of lightning).

### **Monthly Riverside Rambles** *January-December, Second Sunday of Each Month - 10am*

We will explore the natural world along the Huron River for nature nerds of all ages. (2 hours - approximately 1 mile round trip).

• *January through March*

Meet at the Freight House (100 Market Pl, Ypsilanti, MI 48198).

• *April through December*

Meet at the pavilion at Waterworks Park (40 Catherine Street)

### **Historic District Perimeter** *February 23, Sunday - 10am*

Walk the perimeter of the Ypsilanti Historic District, the 3rd largest in Michigan. Distance is approximately 6K (3 miles). Meet at the Main Branch of the Ypsilanti District Library (229 W Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197).

### **Historic Walking Tours:** **Downtown**

### **March 26, Sunday - 10am**

Marvel at the buildings in the historic downtown business district, then head down to the river to visit Independence Island. (2 hours). Meet at the Main Branch of the Ypsilanti District Library (229 W Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197).

### **Historic Walking Tours:** **Normal Park**

### **April 23, Sunday - 10am**

A nice, flat route through a century-old neighborhood. (2 hours). Meet at the Ypsilanti Senior Center (1015 Congress St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197).

### **Ypsilanti Bicentennial 5K/10K** **Volksmarch**

### **May 6, Saturday - 10am**

Created especially to highlight Ypsilanti's history - from Depot Town to Woodruff's Grove, Independence Island to the Water Tower, walkers can purchase a map or walk with a guided group. Meet at the Freighthouse (100 Market Pl, Ypsilanti, MI 48198)

### **Historic Walking Tours:** **Depot Town and the Historic East Side**

### **June 25, Sunday - 10am**

After the history walk through Depot

Town, we'll walk up and down a steep hill through the east side neighborhoods (2 hours). Meet at the Freight House (100 Market Pl, Ypsilanti, MI 48198).

### **Historic Walking Tours:** **Cross St/EMU**

### **July 23, Sunday - 10am**

Walk from one of the lowest points in the city (Frog Island) to the highest elevation (the water tower) with a quick stroll through the original State Normal College (now EMU). (2 hours). Meet at the Freighthouse (100 Market Pl, Ypsilanti, MI 48198).

### **YHF Historic Home Tour** **August 19 (likely), Saturday - Time TBA**

This event will retrace the route of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's first Historic Home Tour in 1978 along N. Huron from Michigan Ave. to Cross St. Participants can walk with a guided group or independently using the annotated map. (1-2 hours). (Start point and date TBD)

### **Bridges of Ypsilanti Walk** **September 4, Monday - 10am**

If you count the Tridge as 3, there are 14 bridges within roughly a mile from downtown Ypsi (not including the freeway overpasses). The



## CONT. WALKING TOURS

walking route is just a bit over 10K. The 5K route has 10 bridges. Meet at the Freighthouse (100 Market Pl, Ypsilanti, MI 48198).

### **Ypsilanti Bicentennial 5K/10K Volksmarch**

**Fall 2023 - Date TBA**

Created especially to highlight Ypsilanti's history - from Depot Town to Woodruff's Grove, Independence Island to the Water Tower, walkers can purchase a map or walk with a guided group. Meet at the Freighthouse (100 Market Pl, Ypsilanti, MI 48198)

### **Historic District Perimeter**

**November 26, Sunday - 10am**

Walk the perimeter of the Ypsilanti Historic District, the 3rd largest in Michigan. Distance is approximately 6K (3 miles). Meet at the Main Branch of the Ypsilanti District Library (229 W Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197).

## SPONSOR THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!

**BE PART OF AN EVENT 200 YEARS IN THE MAKING!**

### **CALL FOR SPONSORS**

We want to put on a celebration that captures the joy and vibrancy of our city, and we need your help! Scan the QR code to learn more about the perks of contributing funds for the Ypsilanti Bicentennial plans!



SCAN TO BE A  
PART OF THE  
CELEBRATIONS!



## BOARDS & COMMISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

### **Arts Commission**

Four Commissioners  
Two Youth Members

### **Police Advisory Commission**

Two Commissioners  
Two Youth Members

### **Dangerous Bldgs**

Dangerous Buildings Officer

### **Sustainability Commission**

One Commissioner  
Two Youth Members

### **Ethics Board**

One Board Member

### **Historic District Commission**

Two Commissioners

### **Human Relations Commission**

Five Commissioners  
Two Youth Members

### **Parks & Recreation Commission**

Four Commissioners  
One Youth Member

Fill out this [online form](#) if  
you are interested in the  
City of Ypsilanti Boards  
and  
Commissions.



## HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Historic District Commission  
The Ypsilanti Historic District Commission has a vacancy. Please apply if you are interested in local historic preservation and would like to serve! Applicants must be city residents. You can learn more about being on a commission [here](#).  
[Apply here](#)

## NON-MOTORIZED COMMITTEE

Join us for the monthly meeting on the second Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM, at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 W Michigan Ave. The City [Non-Motorized Advisory Committee](#) needs four additional Committee members and a youth member. If you have any interest or ideas, contact Bob Krzewinski via email at [wolverbob@gmail.com](mailto:wolverbob@gmail.com)

## POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Ypsilanti Police Advisory commission still has open positions, For those who are interested, they meet on the fourth Thursday of every month.

- Monthly presentation from YPD with an overview of stats, department staffing and activities, use of force incidents, and citizen complaints if any.
- Presentation and discussion of the use of body cameras. You can find YPD policies and procedures involving body cameras [here](#).
- YPAC chair submitted the first annual report to the city council

## ARTS COMMISSION

The City of Ypsilanti is seeking individuals passionate about the arts in Ypsilanti to join the Arts Commission.

The Arts Commission meets once a month to promote art in the City of Ypsilanti, educate the public why the arts, culture and creative industries are important to the City of Ypsilanti, to cultivate a community culture and environment that embraces and nurtures artistic and creative assets, and to promote and further diversity, equity and inclusion of all of Ypsilanti in the arts.

## SOLAR REBATE PROGRAM

Residents can get at least a \$2,000 rebate for installing solar panels on their homes or business. There is \$80,000 available for rebates for anyone interested, that's enough to accommodate 40 different homes. The project has been named the Grace Sweeny Solar Rebate program and is named for the late Ypsilanti resident and wife of longtime city leader Pete Murdock.

To the businesses in Downtown and West Cross Street, the DDA has made available \$150,000 in solar rebates.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES UPDATES

### REMINDER: RECYCLING ITEMS ACCEPTED FOR CURBSIDE PICK-UP

#### Items Accepted Curbside:

##### **PLASTIC: Clean and Rinsed Bottles, Jars, and Containers with numbers 1 (PET), 2 (HDPE), 5 (PP), on the bottom**

- No plastic bags or plastic film
- No plastic bottle caps, lids, or straws
- No motor oil bottles

##### **METAL: Aluminum, Tin, & Steel**

- Includes cans, beverage and product containers, foil, & trays.
- Please clean.

##### **PAPER**

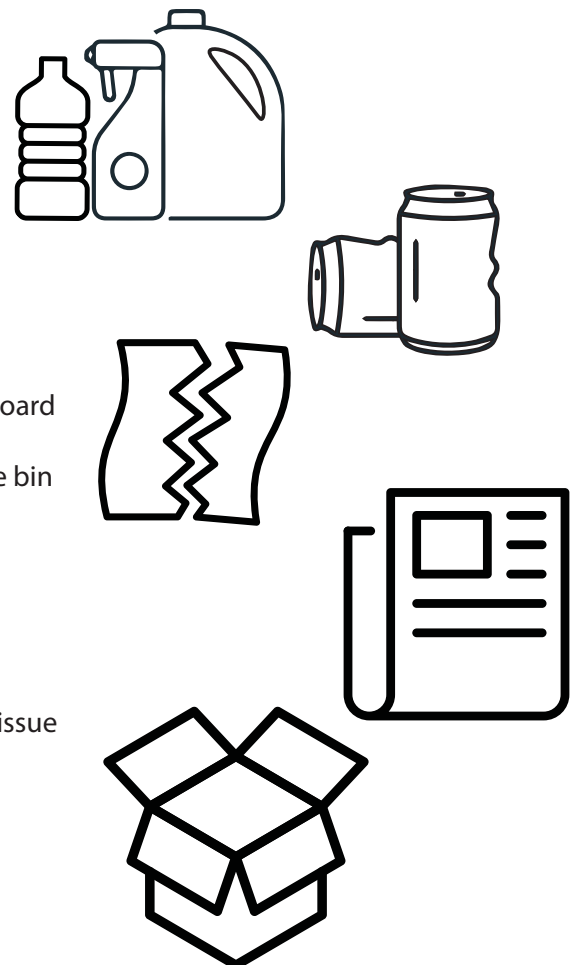
- Bundle paper separately with string or place in paper bags or cardboard boxes
- Paper may be placed next to red bin, but don't block the view of the bin
- NO shredded paper

##### **NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINES & JUNK MAIL**

- Newspapers, including glossy inserts
- Magazines and paperback books, including phone books
- Mixed paper, glossy coated OK
- NO plastic or metal tabs, binders, transparencies, carbon paper, or tissue paper

##### **CARDBOARD & BOXBOARD**

- Bundle in 3x4 foot bundles or in a box or bag
- Place next to or on top of bin
- Cereal boxes, cardboard egg cartons and similar type material



## CONT. RECYCLING

- Flatten and remove inner bags or packaging
- Rinsed and empty boxboard containers without wax coating or food residue

### PAPER (ASEPTIC) CARTONS/GABLED CONTAINERS

- Must be rinsed and empty
- No straws or caps

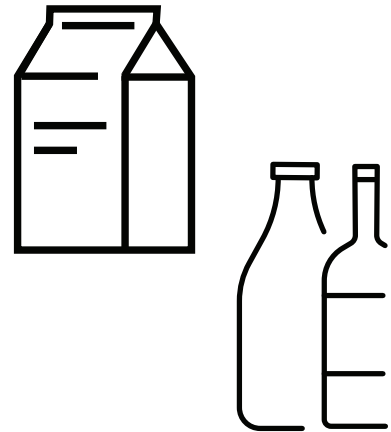
### GLASS

- Clean and rinsed bottles and jars of any color only.
- No other glass products.

- No plastic bags or film
- No Styrofoam
- No shredded paper
- No batteries
- No household trash, food, or yard waste
- No electronics
- No motor oil, transmission fluid or antifreeze
- No material with excess food residue, other organic material, or moisture (example: paper drink cups, pizza boxes, or take-out food boxes)
- Please do not bag recyclables!

Items not accepted curbside, including oversize items, may be taken to Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop-Off station. Check their website at [recycleannarbor.org](http://recycleannarbor.org) or call (734) 971-7400 for a current list of items they accept. The City of Ypsilanti residents can get a pass at the City Hall Clerk's office to waive the standard entrance fee; fill out the form at [cityofypsilanti.com/RAAForm](http://cityofypsilanti.com/RAAForm) to request a card.

For any questions regarding Recycling or the Department of



Public Services, contact  
734-483-1421  
Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

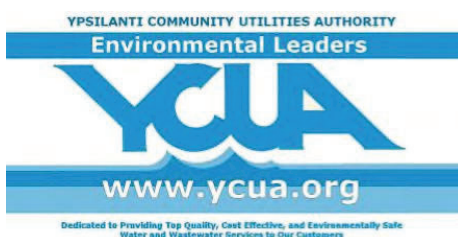
### WASTE WIZARD

WRRMA Waste Wizard - an interactive recycling search tool!

Type the name of a waste material, and the wizard will tell you where it goes for recycling, composting or disposal. Pretty neat huh?

[Find it on our recycling page!](#)

## YCUA CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



### Public Notice- December 22nd

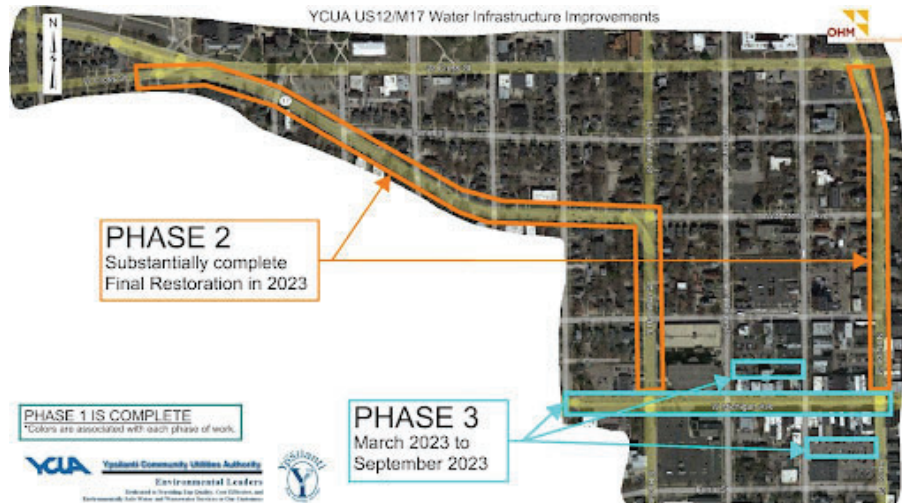
As part of the ongoing dedication to provide top quality, cost effective, and environmentally safe water and wastewater services to our customers, YCUA continues to make improvements to both existing water and wastewater utilities within the M-17 and US-12 corridors in the City of Ypsilanti. The improvements are being constructed for YCUA by DiPonio Contracting, Inc., of Shelby Township, Michigan. OHM Advisors,

Inc. of Livonia, Michigan is administering the construction contract and providing full-time, on-site observation of the work by DiPonio on behalf of YCUA.

YCUA's utility improvements north of Michigan Avenue were substantially completed during early December and construction work has concluded for the winter months. Note that the work completed this year included Huron Street from Michigan Avenue north to Cross Street, an area that was initially expected to not be started until early spring of 2023. Some minor clean up and restoration work, such as grass seed, will need to be completed by YCUA's contractor in the areas north of Michigan Avenue next spring.

The final phase of YCUA's project will be within or adjacent to Michigan Avenue from Huron Street west to Ballard Street. The scope of work has been revised from the original plan to abandon the existing water main in Michigan Avenue between Huron Street and Washington Street as well as between Adams Street and Hamilton Street. Most properties along the south side of Michigan Avenue between Huron Street and Washington Street will have their water services relocated to an existing water main in the parking lot south of the buildings. Properties along the north side of Michigan Avenue between Washington Street and Adams Street will have their water services connected to an improved water main in the alley and





parking lot north of the buildings. Properties along the south side of Michigan Avenue between Washington Street and Adams Street will be reconnected to a new water main installed under the eastbound lanes of Michigan Avenue. The revised scope of work will lessen disruption to traffic flow along Michigan Avenue. Although every effort will be made to minimize disruptions caused by the water and wastewater system improvements, the construction work will invariably result in some inconveniences.

Similar to the first phases of the project, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will follow YCUA's construction into Washtenaw Avenue, Hamilton Street, and Huron Street to resurface or repair those portions of the pavement not impacted by YCUA's project. MDOT will then follow into the Michigan Avenue corridor following completion of YCUA's utility work.

If you have any questions regarding this project please call YCUA at (734) 484-4600 and ask for Scott Westover, Engineering Manager, at extension 220 or via electronic mail at [swestover@ycua.org](mailto:swestover@ycua.org).

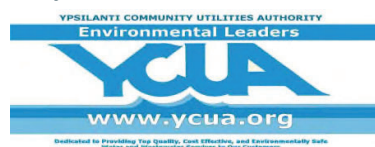


## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

### PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY!

YCUA is participating with Washtenaw County in utilizing its Everbridge Notification System. Everbridge is a secure and identity-certified communication service that allows public safety and service organizations throughout the county to connect with local residents over cell phone, email, and the internet. YCUA is utilizing this service for directly issuing emergency notices to impacted customers regarding water main breaks and boil water advisories. The Everbridge System will allow YCUA to directly reach out to enrolled customers regarding emergencies that impact their water service with current and detailed information.

Signing up for the service will also allow customers to stay up-to-date on happenings in their neighborhood through email and text messages sent by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. Please visit [www.washtenaw.org/alerts](http://www.washtenaw.org/alerts) to sign up today!



**Stay informed on emergencies that affect your water services**

**Water main break notifications and boil water advisories are sent directly to affected homes**

**Notifications can be sent to landline phones, cell phones, and e-mail accounts. Registered users can also download the Everbridge app from Google Play or Apple Store.**

**Contact 734-484-4600 ext. 316 with any questions or concerns.**

### DDA BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The DDA Staff and Board meet monthly to discuss various things that make Ypsilanti uniquely Ypsilanti. You can attend meetings every third Thursday at 8:30am (Back Office Studio - 13 N. Washington) or you can catch the minutes and packets online [HERE](#).

#### Approved:

- 2023 Meeting Schedule
- Support for a Bicentennial Billboard project
- New Special Event Sponsorship Application window for 2023
- Landscaping Request for Proposals
- Executive Committee meeting to discuss staff compensation.
- Letter of support for 705 W. Cross appeal.



**JANUARY 19, 2022**

#### APPROVED:

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

SUPPORT FOR BICENTENNIAL BILLBOARD PROJECT

NEW SPECIAL EVENT SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION WINDOW FOR 2023

LANDSCAPING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS STAFF COMPENSATION

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR 705 W. CROSS APPEAL

### SPECIAL EVENT SPONSORSHIP NOTIFICATION FROM THE DDA

#### PLEASE READ ABOUT CHANGES TO THE EVENT SPONSORSHIP PROCESS-

We are excited about the upcoming event season in 2023 and wish to streamline the process for issuing special event sponsorships again this year. Some of you have already submitted applications which we really appreciate because there is a limited window of time that we will be accepting applications and this process will be very different from

prior years when we reviewed applications on a rolling basis.

This year, the DDA will open applications on February 1, 2023 and close applications on March 31, 2023 with final funding decisions at our meeting on April 20, 2023 at 8:30am.

**Applications are due no later than March 31, 2023 to be considered for special event sponsorship funding in 2023/2024.**

Applications received after March 31, 2023 will only be considered in districts where funding remains available.

Please remember that the DDA can only sponsor events held within the DDA Districts.

[You can find the Event Sponsorship Application linked here.](#)



# AROUND TOWN

## VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)



**VITA appointments for the 2023 season opening on February 1st, -- call 2-1-1 to set up your appointment.** Free in-person service for the 2022-2023 tax season to people living in Washtenaw County who earned less than \$60,000 in 2022. Services are by appointment only and available the following days. Plan to 60-90 minutes for your meeting.

You can also file at home at no cost

with MyFreeTaxes.com. This 100% free self-filing tool is thanks to a United Way and IRS partnership. MyFreeTaxes.com screens for eligible credits and deductions through TaxSlayer software. Any issues? Reach the 2-1-1 staffed helpline at 866-698-9435.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is a national IRS-sponsored program that pairs certified volunteers with taxpayers like you to file accurate tax returns for free. United Way of Washtenaw County is proud to be an official VITA Site and assist County residents with tax-related needs.

[Get Help: 2-1-1 | United Way of Washtenaw County](#)

The 2-1-1 helpline provides referrals to programs to assist with food, housing, financial assistance, utility assistance and more. Help is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year, from anywhere in the state of Michigan. If you need help finding resources in your area, dial 2-1-1, email us, or speak to a representative via live chat now. Want to browse resources on your own? Search our online database to access more than 27,000 different statewide programs and services. If you experience problems dialing 2-1-1, dial 1-800-552-1183. Dial 9-1-1 for emergency calls.

**Call 2-1-1 from any phone or visit 2-1-1 online to live chat, email, or search the database.**

## SCHOOL & COMMUNITY HABITAT GRANT

From the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office

Does your school, community organization, or non-profit need expert consultation or plant materials to create a native garden, rain garden, food forest, windbreak, or other native plant projects?

[The Washtenaw County Conservation District](#) School & Community Habitat Grant is now accepting applications until the June 11th, 2023, deadline!

[Find more information here.](#)





## SUMMERWORKS - APPLY FOR A 10-WEEK PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIP

SummerWorks seeks to pair more than 100 of Washtenaw County's motivated young people, aged 16-24, with Washtenaw County employers and the University of Michigan departments. Youth living or attending school in Washtenaw County can apply for a quality, 10-week paid summer internship in a variety of fields. During the program, SummerWorks also provides structured professional development as well as mentorship and leadership opportunities.

"SummerWorks is a great opportunity for employers and young adults to connect in ways that they may not have otherwise. The young adults are talented and eager to learn and the employers understand that to stay competitive they need to utilize innovative strategies and help. The program allows both parties to help each other reach their goals by joining the best and brightest young adults and employers to make magic happen over 10 weeks." *Cheranissa Roach, Economic Opportunity Manager,*

*Washtenaw County of Economic and Community Development*

SummerWorks' mentorship program receives applications from retired and professional adults worldwide. Those interested commit as little as 1 hour per week and receive ongoing mentorship guidance and support from SummerWorks staff.

SummerWorks' employer participants provide a minimum of 20 hours of internship work per week at a rate of \$15/hour or \$17/hour, based on youth participants' completion of a high school degree or equivalent. Intern wage support is available for employers who qualify.

**Applications for employers and mentors are open now at [SummerWorks.info](https://summerworks.info)**

If you are interested in learning more, please [RSVP to attend an employer and mentor info session](#). Virtual and in-person info sessions run February 10 through March 15 and are held at MichiganWorks! Southeast in

Ypsilanti or on the University of Michigan campus.

Info sessions offer a chance to meet SummerWorks staff, get an overview of the program, and learn about the benefits of providing internships for young adults through the SummerWorks program.

For more information, Washtenaw County businesses and organizations can contact Kathleen Clancey at [mail@summerworks.info](mailto:mail@summerworks.info) or 734-219-5141, and U-M departments can contact Armeka Richey at [armeka@umich.edu](mailto:armeka@umich.edu) or 734-355-4597.

If you know someone aged 16-24 residing or attending school in Washtenaw County who would like to participate in SummerWorks 2023, youth application and program information can be found at [summerworks.info](https://summerworks.info).

**Applications for youth are open now at [SummerWorks.info](https://summerworks.info) and are due by March 12.**

## YPSI INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS INSTITUTE- CALL FOR ENGAGEMENT

Engage@EMU, Generations United and the Ypsilanti Senior Center are collaborating to facilitate the Ypsilanti Intergenerational Community Solutions Institute (YICSI) - an intergenerational training and design institute that will bring together key stakeholders in Washtenaw County for a series of gatherings to collaboratively learn about intergenerational issues and plan intergenerational initiatives to reduce social isolation and improve health outcomes for all generations. YICSI will create a space for shared learning and collaboration in various

capacities among key stakeholders to advance intergenerational initiatives that will lead to more equitable health benefits and resources across the generations.

[The project webpage is available here.](#)

To apply and attend one (or both!) of our engagement sessions, please fill out [this form](#)

Questions? Email and/or contact us through [emu\\_engage@emich.edu](mailto:emu_engage@emich.edu) Or Contact Jessica 'Decky' Alexander at



[decky.alexander@emich.edu](mailto:decky.alexander@emich.edu)

## YPSI 9TH HOUR



Sponsored and co-created by Back Office Studio and Ann Arbor SPARK East Innovation Center, this after-work networking scene is for anyone looking to socialize with like-minded entrepreneurs, business professionals, and independent contractors in a casual, relaxed atmosphere with complimentary refreshments.

[Register Here](#)

Thurs, February 2, 5-6:30 pm at The Back Office Studio (13 N Washington)

## PASTORS LUNCH AT HOPE CLINIC

Hope Clinic hosts a monthly free lunch-and-learn for pastors and others involved in leading Christian ministry. These are on the first Thursday of each month. Upcoming dates and topics include:

**February 2**, Discussion about our ministries.

**March 2**, Hope Clinic CEO Doug Campbell, "Uniting your Team through Shared Vision."

**April 6**, Dr. Tom Bishop, PhD,

Michigan Medicine Psychologist and Pastor. "Mental Health First Aid, and Connecting People to the Help they Need."

Lunches are held at Noon at Hope Clinic (518 Harriet St. Ypsilanti 48197).

[Registration is requested.](#)

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK CONVERSATIONS WITH RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER

Join us to share your opinions and suggestions about your past and future involvement with Riverside Arts Center. Facilitated by Ypsi's own Mary Larkin, we hope to create a space for everyone to participate in these conversations in meaningful ways. Everyone is welcome to any or all of the gatherings, though each evening's questions and conversations will be focused around a different part of the makeup of our community:

**February 9 - Artists and Curators**

**February 16 - Teachers and Parents**

**February 23 - Community Members, Leaders, and Nonprofits**

At the end of the three sessions, we will organize and analyze the information to report back with what we find. We want our 2023 programming to be reflective of what our community is asking for. We will take the feedback from these conversations to heart as we craft



workshops, classes, performances, events, and more based on what we hear from you.

**These events are free, but space is limited.** [Please reserve your spot on Eventbrite](#) so we can be ready to welcome you. Can't wait to see you there!



## HOLY BONES PRESENTS: ART MAKERS & HEART BREAKERS

On February 12th from 12:00 PM- 6:00 PM. Stop by the Ypsilanti Freighthouse and fall in love with local makers and heartbreakers!

You'll find the perfect gift for your Valentine... but that's not all! Sometimes, vendors fall out of love with their stuff...so for one day, only you can scoop them up for deals that will make your heart flutter! The Art Makers & Heart Breakers event is free to the public.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPEAKER SERIES



# JUST A KID from Ypsi!

**Your Host**  
Taryn Willis  
Events and Logistics Specialist



**HURON HIGH SCHOOL**

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH Speaker Series

Chat with these professionals that grew up in **48197 & 48198** zip codes and now have amazing careers through hard work, education, dedication, and community!

**Tuesday**  
**Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

**Click to ZOOM** Meeting ID: 378 111 0170  
Passcode: YpsiStrong



**YPSILANTI HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Tashauna Hall**  
Nurse/Hair Braider



**WILLOW RUN HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Jesse Davis**  
Basketball Coach



**WILLOW RUN HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Lorenzo Brown**  
Educator



**YPSILANTI COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Kid Jay (Jason O'Banner)**  
Rapper/Artist



**YPSILANTI HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Brian Jones-Chance**  
Politician/Brewery Owner



**YPSILANTI HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Kenya Glover**  
Human Resource Specialist for Public Schools



**WILLOW RUN HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Crystal Lyte**  
Washtenaw County Commissioner/  
Path Career Advisor



**WILLOW RUN HIGH SCHOOL/BELLEVILLE HIGH**  
**Travis Willis**  
Printer/Business Owner

## YDL EVENTS IN JANUARY

On February 13th at 7 PM virtually- Learn about grief, its effects on one's physical and emotional health, and helpful tips for navigating grief during Valentine's Day. Join YDL and GrieveWell for this interactive workshop to learn about grief, its effects on one's physical and emotional health, and helpful tips for navigating grief during Valentine's Day. As part of this workshop, you will make a written plan for managing grief during this challenging time of the year. Registration information is coming soon - please check back at [Grievewell's Upcoming Events](#)

On Saturday, February 18th, from 11:00 am -12:30 pm Join YDL, YpsiWrites, and EMU Professor of Africology and African American Studies Toni Pressley-Sanon in a morning of reading, reflection, and writing. In this workshop we will consider how all of us as writers can inspire change and make a difference in our communities and our world through our creative expression. Through the reading and contemplation of African American women's poetry, we will learn how to listen more deeply to our own voices and to the voices of others. We will then practice using our writing as a tool to expand our collective hearts



## CONT. YDL

and minds for teens and adults.  
[Register Here.](#)

Celebrate Black History Month by competing in an online trivia contest. Answer questions related to Black History for your chance to win prizes. The contest is open to library card holders and individuals within the Ypsilanti Library service area. Call 734-482-4110 x2411 with questions.

[Click here to take the quiz](#) through Tuesday, February 28th.

## FREE MONTHLY BRUNCH!

Building community through food with Peace House Ypsi! At 16 S. Washington Street, Ypsilanti, on Sunday, February 19th, from 11:00 am-1:00 pm.

Please join us for this free brunch that includes something for everyone - including vegan and gluten-free when available. Please help us build relationships and traditions around the kitchen table! Huge thank you to Growing Hope for this community space and support.

## JOIN A BOOK CLUB!

Book Club Meeting (Feb. 23, 8:30 pm, 1st half of "All The Light We Cannot See"

Like to read (or want the motivation to read again)? Want to meet some interesting folks?

You should consider joining a Book Club!

Here are the details for February:  
*Time:* February 23d, 8:30pm  
*Location:* Corner Brewery (720 Norris)  
*Book:* The first half of All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

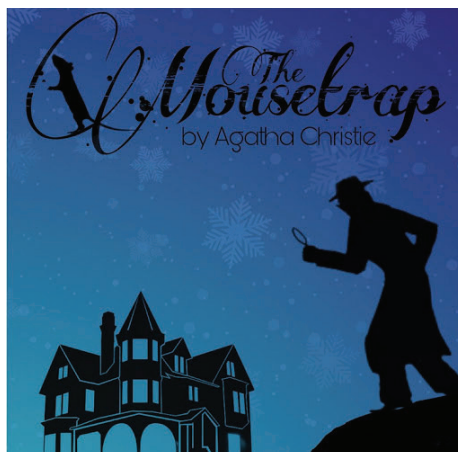
## YPSI PRIDE: TAP INTO LOVE



Join Ypsi Pride at The Tap Room for a night of love stories. Come hear love stories in your community. If you'd like to submit or tell your own at the event, [register here](#). Also, if public speaking is not for you, you can submit your story anonymously and a volunteer with Ypsi Pride will share it.

Your love story does not have to be about romantic love, it can be anything you deem a love story! If time allows, we will have open mic slots available too. There is a suggested donation \$10 for this event, and all proceeds will go to throwing an awesome Ypsi Pride event this year. Please submit any questions to [ypsipridefundraising@firstfridaysypsi.com](mailto:ypsipridefundraising@firstfridaysypsi.com)  
*\*Please note that this is a 21 and up event.*

## THE MOUSETRAP BY AGATHA CHRISTIE



PTD Productions presents: The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie  
Performance Dates  
February 23 - March 4, 2023  
Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8pm

Sunday & Wednesday at 2pm  
At the Riverside Arts Center, Ypsilanti

After a local woman is murdered, the guests and staff at Monkswell Manor find themselves stranded during a snowstorm. It soon becomes clear that the killer is among them, and the seven strangers grow increasingly suspicious of one another. When a second murder takes place, tensions and fears escalate. This record-breaking murder mystery features a brilliant surprise finish from Dame Agatha Christie, the foremost mystery writer of her time.

[Tickets are available here.](#)

## QUEER COMMUNITY CLOTHING SWAP



Anyone is welcome provided they are respectful and don't assume the gender/gendered clothing of other participants.

We especially welcome folks who are looking for clothes but don't have

any to bring. This is not a 1-1 trade or transactional event in any way.

We will have clothes organized by size to the best of our ability, and ask that for folks bringing clothes they pre-sort by size (s, m, l, xl, 1x, 2x, 3x, ect) to the best of your ability. We intentionally cultivate a wide range of sizes and historically have a huge selection of plus size clothes between 2x-5x.

[Find updates here.](#)

## JOIN YPSI IMPROV



**What:** In person improv sessions where improv games will be played and laughs will be shared.

**Who:** Anyone who would like to participate in or learn more about improv and the daily confidence it can help build. No experience

necessary. We explain all the games we play and love answering questions.

**When:** 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays of the month. Sessions start at 2 pm, and last for 2 hours.

**Where:** Riverside Arts Center  
76 N. Huron St, Ypsilanti  
2nd floor, Studio #1

**Cost:** \$5 to participate, free to watch. Want more information or have questions?

[meetup.com/ypsi-improv/](https://www.meetup.com/ypsi-improv/)  
[Ypsiimprovgames@gmail.com](mailto:Ypsiimprovgames@gmail.com)

## RIVERSIDE SWINGS!

### RIVERSIDE SWINGS

#### FRIDAY NIGHTS

9PM-11:30PM  
All ages  
All skill levels

\$5 General Admission  
\$4 Students

8PM-9PM  
Free beginner lesson



Learn how to swing dance!

**Where:** 2nd-floor dance studio,  
Riverside Arts Center 76 N Huron St,  
Ypsilanti

All ages and experience levels  
welcome!

[Facebook Page](#)

## HURON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

### TAKE A SURVEY TO HELP PROTECT WATER QUALITY

Take a short online survey to set the direction of our future pollution prevention outreach efforts. 15 minutes of your time will help us protect water quality in the Huron River watershed.

#### [TAKE THE SURVEY!](#)

Sharing your opinion ensures that HRWC programs reflect the needs and interests of residents in the watershed. Survey results will be used by HRWC and communities in Washtenaw and Livingston counties to evaluate collaborative outreach

and education efforts and will inform projects like the Huron River Watershed Community Calendar. The survey is anonymous. Once finished, you can opt into our special drawing for a gift card. Complete the survey and opt in by January 1, 2023 for a chance at one of five \$200 gift cards, by February 15, 2023 for a chance at one of ten \$100 gift cards. [Download the Gift Card Drawing Terms and Conditions here.](#)

The future of the watershed depends on our actions now! Please help

protect it by taking the survey and encouraging your friends and colleagues to do the same.

**Questions?** Please [email Pam Labadie.](#)

This survey is being conducted with support from the Middle Huron Partners and the Livingston Watershed Advisory Group, working together to reduce stormwater pollution in the Huron River watershed. The survey opens October 1, 2022 and closes February 15, 2023.



### HWSC TIP

Catch the plastic! Keep microplastics out of our rivers and streams. Shed by synthetic clothes and textiles during laundering, these tiny fibers are not filtered out by the wastewater treatment process. Washing machine filters and special laundry devices can help. And if you buy a new washing machine, choose a front loader.

[Learn more HERE!](#)

# CITY CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2023

FOR UPDATES AND MORE INFO CLICK [HERE](#)

## PUBLIC MEETINGS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CALENDAR

ALL HELD AT CITY HALL - 1 S. HURON UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

City Council Meeting  
February 7, 2023, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Historic District Commission  
February 14, 2023, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

City Council Meeting  
February 21, 2023, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Arts Commission Meeting  
February 9, 2023, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Planning Commission Meeting  
February 15, 2023, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Police Advisory Commission  
February 23, 2023, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Sustainability Commission Meeting  
February 13, 2023, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting  
February 20, 2023, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

## EVENTS AND RECREATION CALENDAR

### Senior Center

1015 N. Congress

#### RECURRING EVENTS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Art</b><br>12:30-2PM<br>February 3, 10, 17, 24                        | <b>Bingo</b><br>12:30-2PM<br>February 1, 8, 15, 22             |
| <b>Euchre</b><br>12:30-2PM<br>February 6, 13, 27                         | <b>Gentle Fitness</b><br>10:30-11:30AM<br>February 6, 13, 27   |
| <b>Gentle Fitness</b><br>10:45-11:45AM<br>February 3, 10, 17, 24         | <b>Knitting/Crochet</b><br>12:30-2PM<br>February 7, 14, 21, 28 |
| <b>Line Dancing</b><br>10:30-11:30AM<br>February 1, 8, 15, 22            | <b>Memory Cafe</b><br>2-4PM<br>February 14                     |
| <b>Norwegian Therapeutic Massage</b><br>12-1PM<br>February 3, 10, 17, 24 |  |
| <b>Tai Chi Class</b><br>2:30-3:30PM<br>February 2, 9, 16, 23             | <b>Tech Help</b><br>10AM-12PM<br>February 7, 14, 21, 28        |
| <b>Yoga</b><br>10-11:30AM<br>February 2, 9, 16, 23                       |  |

[Register HERE](#) for fitness classes  
All other inquiries, email [info@ypsiseniorcenter.org](mailto:info@ypsiseniorcenter.org)

### Freighthouse

100 Market Pl.

#### PUBLIC EVENTS

- Bobbin the Hood Fly Tying Gathering**  
February 4: 10AM-5PM
- Art Makers & Heart Breakers Artisan Market**  
February 12: 12-6PM
- Ypsi Flea & Swap**  
February 19: 10-3PM
- Queer Community Clothing Swap**  
February 25: 3PM

#### RECURRING PUBLIC EVENTS

- Indoor Disc Golf Putting League**  
7:30-9PM  
February 2, 9, 16, 23

### Parkridge Community Center

591 Armstrong Dr.

#### RECURRING PROGRAMS

- After-School Programming**  
4-7PM  
Monday - Thursday through June 8th  
[More info here.](#)

Do you have something happening in the city you'd like to share in the monthly newsletter? **MUST BE IN OR RELATED TO THE CITY OF YPSILANTI.**

Email your article to  
[tkoch@cityofypsilanti.com](mailto:tkoch@cityofypsilanti.com)

**Submissions are due on the 15th of each month.**

